Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

MILITARY LETTERS OF CAPTAIN JOSEPH SHIPPEN OF THE PROVINCIAL SERVICE, 1756–1758.

[The "Shippen Papers" of the Manuscript Department, of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, which have been arranged, fill upwards of 50 folio volumes, and are in much request by all those who are engaged in the development of our Provincial history. The "Military Letter Book of Joseph Shippen, 1756–1758," from which the following letters have been transcribed, is but one of a number of others of a similar character, which, with the original plans of Fort Augusta and the surveyed route of Gen. Forbes' expedition against Fort Duquesne, are of great historical value.

Joseph Shippen, the youngest son of Edward Shippen "of Lancaster," by his wife Sarah Plumley, and brother of Chief Justice Edward Shippen, born in Philadelphia, October 30, 1732, graduated at Princeton, 1753, with the degree of A. B. He entered the Provincial Service as Captain in the regiment commanded by Col. William Clapham, served at Fort Augusta and Shamokin, 1756–1757, and under Gen. Forbes in the expedition which captured Fort Duquesne, November 25, 1758. After the disbandment of his command, he went to Europe, and on his return to Philadelphia, was appointed January 2, 1762, Secretary of Provincial Council, and served until its dissolution in 1775. In June of 1786, he was appointed a Judge of the Lancaster County Courts, and died at Lancaster February 10, 1810. He was married at Christ Church, September 29, 1768, to Jane, daughter of John Galloway of Maryland; born September, 1745, died February 17, 1801. Mr. Shippen was a cultured gentleman, and filled his military and official positions with ability and honor.]

LANCASTER 13th April 1756.

HONd SIR.

Last night Major Burd delivered me your Honours commission appointing me a captain in the regiment under the command of Colo Clapham, an Honour which I am sensible, no merit in me could have laid any claim to. I therefore esteem my appointment to this office as a most distinguished mark of your Honours Favour & Regard. And I take this opportunity to express my Thankfulness to your Honour in the most grateful manner.

I shall endeavour to discharge the Trust reposed in me with great chearfulness, & shall always promote the Interests of His Majesty & this Province to the utmost of my power.

I am much obliged to your Honour for the Priviledge you give me of nominating a Subaltern, and tho' I might think of several agreeable persons in Philad^{a} yet as it would delay time to know their minds, I beg your Honour will be pleased to appoint such as are most agreeable to yourself, with whom I am sure I shall be satisfied. I shall set off Tomorrow for Susquehannah with Major Burd in order to engage Canoes at several places on the River, & shall transmit you on Acco^{t} of my success as soon as I return here. I am with due esteem,

Your Honour's
Most obliged & hum^{e} Servt
JOSEPH SHIPPEN J^{r}

To the HON^{ble} Govr

LANCASTER 13th April 1756.

SIR.

I received your Instructions of the 11th Ins^{t} pr. Major Burd, who at the same delivered me Fifty Pounds & His Honour the Gov^{rs} Commission appointing me a Captain in your Regim^{t} & have been qualified accordingly before Major Burd.

I shall endeavour to observe your Instructions at all times with the greatest Punctuality. Tomorrow I intend to set out for Harris's ferry with Mr Burd, from thence shall proceed down the River to the several Ferrys & other Places where Canoes are to be had, and on my Return I shall acquaint you with my success; in the mean time shall leave my Serjeant to recruit wth my Father's assistance.

I find I cannot get Recruits quartered here for less than

a Shilling pr. Day, which has hitherto been paid by all Recruiting Officers. I shall wait your Orders in this Respect, in the mean time I must pay as usual. I am very respectfully

Sir your most obed^{t} Hum^{e} Servt

JOSEPH SHIPPEN J^{r}

To COL^{o} WILL^{m} CLAPHAM, at Philad^{a}.

April 16th 1756

SIR.

Be pleased to enlist for me some young active men of no less size than five feet six inches high, agreeable to the Terms of the Advertisement I herewith give you; as fast as you enlist them I beg you will send them to Mr John Harris, who will entertain till I send him further Directions. After they have taken the Oath of Fidelity & signed it, let the Justice of Peace sign a Certificate of it setting down the Day of the Month. I leave with you five Dollars to give to the men, each one Dollar advanced money. Let the Articles of War be read to them before he enlists.

Your compliance will much oblige

Dr Sir

Your Friend & hum^{e} Servt

JOSEPH SHIPPEN

P.S. they must be enlisted
for not less than
twelve months.

To CAP^{T}. THO^{s} M^{c}KEE, at Hunter's Mill.

LANCASTER 19th April 1756.

SIR.

I returned here last night from Susquehannah and tho' I rode from Hunter's Mill down the River as far as John Ross's at the blew Rock, I could not find but twenty seven Canoes that are good for anything, which the

People have promised to deliver to me as soon as I call for them, but I think it will be impracticable for the men of the Regim^{t} who are unskilled in working Canoes with Poles against the Stream, to transport them up to Harris Ferry on acco^{t} of the Rapidity & Falls of the River & as several people have agreed to deliver their canoes there without any cost, it would be attended with the less charge. If I was impowered to hire River Men to carry up those that are more distant. However I shall wait your further Instructions in this point, since I may receive them as soon as I can Recruit a sufficient number of men for that purpose. I am favour'd with your Instructions of 14th & 15th Ins^{t} Ens^{g} Clayton & Cartland arrived here last night with a Party of 47 men & the Waggons and agreeable to your orders I have given them the proper instructions how & where to proceed &c.

I am very respectfully Sir

Your obed^{t} hum^{e} Servt

JOSEPH SHIPPEN JR.

To COL^{o} Wm CLAPHAM.

LANCASTER 19th April 1756.

HONOURED SIR:

I am to inform your Honour that I came home last night from the Susquehannah & have engaged twenty-seven canoes, a return whereof I here enclose with a letter to Col^{o} Clapham, which after perusal I beg your Honour will be pleased to seal up. If the Commission for my Ensign is not filled I would take the Liberty to recommend to your Honour one Mr John Lowdon living at Susquehannah, for that office, he is a young gentleman of good sense, great activity & spirit, of whom I did not once think of when I wrote to your honour before.

I am with Esteem

Your Honours most obed^{t} hum'le

JOSEPH SHIPPEN J^{r}.

To the GOVERNOR:

LANCASTER 19th April 1756.

SIR:

The Ensigns Mr Clayton & Cartland are marching up to your House with a Party of 47 men, 30 whereof are going to Carlisle with Mr Cartland, the remainder with Mr Clayton stay at your House. As Mr Clayton has orders not to break in upon the Publick Stores, I desire that you will furnish his 17 men with provisions at one Shilling p. Day.

There are four or five Waggons going up also with Provisions &c. which I beg you'll immediately take care of upon their arrival & store them safely in your House within the Stockade, as they will be more secure there than anywhere else. Be pleased to write to me soon concerng the number of canoes arrived &c. your care in these Publick Matters will entitle you to the Favour of every Body.

I am Sir
Your most humc Servt
JOSEPH SHIPPEN.

To Mr JOHN HARRIS, at Pextang.

LANCASTER 21st April 1756

SIR.

I am to inform you that a Detachment of a Serjeant & thirty one men who are now in this Town, will be at your House next Saturday night, & will remain there some time, I beg therefore you will make the necessary preparations for Lodging & Provisions for them, and also for seventy or a hundred more men, which I suppose will arrive at Pextons by the beginning of next week.

I expect Colo Clapham up here in a few Days. I should be glad to know whether Capt McKee has sent you any Recruits for me.

I am
Your very humc Servt
JOSEPH SHIPPEN Jr.

To Mr JOHN HARRIS at Pextang.

LANCASTER 24th April 1756.

SIR.

Your Favour of the 18th Inst. I received p Serjeant Braddock with a command of thirty one men, whom I dispatched yesterday mornᵍ to John Harris's, having sent notice to him the Day before to make the necessary preparation for their Reception. At the same time I informed him that I supposed 70 or 100 more men would arrive at his House the beginning of next week, that he might be the better provided to entertain them also.

Lieuᵗ Davis arrived here the night before last with a Detachment of 75 men, whom I have detained here, where there are good Quarters as Mʳ Harris can't have had time enough to make suitable provision for them. I wrote to you on the 19th inst. since which I have been recruiting here & waiting your further Orders with regard to getting the Canoes up to Harris's, which I am certain the men I have enlisted cannot possibly do, without the greatest difficulty & Danger of their lives as the River is rapid & there are bad falls in it. I have recruited about 40 clever Fellows, & should be glad to know how many more will be necessary, as People offer themselves every Day. I would mention to you that several of the Locks of the Muskets which are gone to Harris's, are very bad & will want to be rectified, I think therefore, it will be requisite that 2 or 3 Gunsmiths from this town should examine them thoroughly when the Regiment shall be at the place of Rendezvous.

I am with Respect

Sir, Your most obedᵗ humᵉ Servᵗ

JOSEPH SHIPPEN Jʳ.

To Colᵒ WILLIAM CLAPHAM,
in Philadᵃ

Dʳ BROTHER,

His Honour the Governor has been pleased (in his letter to my Father) to give me the Priviledge of nominating a Subaltern for my Company, but as I did not

think of a suitable person immediately, I wrote to His Honour to appoint such a one as he thought proper. And as I don't understand that any is yet commissioned for my Lieutenant, & I am unwilling to trouble the Governor with any further letters on that head, I would desire you to wait upon the Governor as soon as you receive this, and let him know that I should like Mr John Dougharty of this Town for that Office; he is a sprightly genteel young man; he is very willing to act as a Lieutenant under me tho' not under a stranger. I should have mention'd him to the Governor before, but that I did know he was disengaged from the Batteau Service, as he has been enlist^g^ men for that Purpose.

I have wrote to his Honour already in Favour of Mr John Lowdon for my Ensign.

I have enlisted about 40 clever fellows for my company, & expect soon to fill it.

My love to sister Peggy &c. I am in hopes of having the pleasure to see you at his Court before we march.

Your very affection^e^ Bro.

JOSEPH SHIPPEN J^r^.

To EDW^d^ SHIPPEN Jr Esqr.

LANCASTER 28th April 1756.

SIR.

I wrote to you on the 24th ins^t^ & have since had the pleasure to receive your Favour of the 23^d^ and one Sunday morn^g^ I picked from among Lieu^t^ Davis's men ten. Canoe men, whom I immediately sent off with a Corporal to Susquehannah, and followed them myself in order to hire a few Hands to assist them in taking canoes up to Harris's, where I expect they got last night. I have pursuant to your Directions, ordered 1500 feet of 2 inch Plank & 1000 feet of inch Board to be sawed as soon as possible near Harris's. If Batteaus are to be made of this Plank, I am told that of 2 inch will be too thick for the purpose, because that heavy Battoes will draw too much water & carry less Burthen than lighter

ones. Lieu^{t} Davis marched with his men on Monday morning for Harris's Ferry, and last night two Waggons with Pork arrived here, wch I sent off immediately to the place of Rendezvous with a letter to Lieu^{t} Davis to see it carefully stored. But as the ten other Waggons, you mentioned to me, are not yet come to this Town I suppose they are gone the Road by the Iron-works.

Several Carpenters might be engaged in the Service from this county, but as none will come under any promise, without knowing the Terms, I cannot certainly inform you what number would be willing to enter.

I have now Fifty-seven men enlisted & am still recruiting. Please to present my Complim^{ts} to Capt Lloyd, and be assured that I am with respect.

Sir,
Your most obed^{t} hum^{e} Servt
JOSEPH SHIPPEN JR.

To COL^{o} WILLIAM CLAPHAM,
in Philad^{a}.

CAMP AT HARRIS'S FERRY May 7th 1756.

DEAR SIR.

Col^{o} Clapham desires the Favour of you to send us your Drum, and tho' it will be some inconvenience to send for another for yourself, yet it will be a very particular kindness conferred upon us; as we are in great want of such instruments to inspire us with Martial Musick. I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you here before we march, which we shall not be able to do these two weeks at least. Capt Young was yesterday appointed *aid-de-camp* to General Morris.

I am with my Compliments to Mrs Ross.

Sir,
Your most obed^{t} hum^{e} Servt
J. SHIPPEN J^{r}.

To CAP^{t} GEO. ROSS, at Lancaster.

CAMP AT HARRIS, May 1756
Saturday 8 o'clock A.M.

HONOURED SIR.

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the Receipt of Mammy's letter of the 9th instt and yours of the 11th 12th & 13th. The waggoner left the Portmanteau & Trunks &c. at Semple's, however John Harris & I contrived to send a waggon to bring them up, with some things also for him, and yesterday they came to hand, but my Regimentals are abundantly too large both in the sleeves & Body, but I have two taylors now at work on them & making them narrower by taking in the cloth & not cutting off the least bit. I have tried them on already & find they fit me exceeding well, & will be finished in two hours. The things you sent p Mr. Blythe came safe also. And the coopers waggon is just arrived with the Govrs Beer & the other things you were so kind to send. The loaf sugar was packed up in the Box with the Govrs Punch Bowl & so was carried to his marquee, but as he had occasion for Sugar I left it with him. I heartily thank Mammy for her kindness in the care she took in sendg my things &c. The Govr & Colo desire their compliments to her & return her many thanks for the good Gingerbread. Mr. Elder delivered me the inclosed Remonstrance, as there are as many names to it as he can get, & there is room left for those to sign, who signed the one you think is lost. Mr. Armstrong tells me to desire you to see that the Remonstrances are sent down to the Assembly as soon as possible, because they will break up perhaps in a short time.

The secret matters I mentioned in my former letters to you, is a difference that unfortunately happened between the Governor & the Colo, in so much that they were not upon speaking terms, nor did they see each other for 3 or 4 days. The Breach was carried to such a length

that the Col° 2 days ago, immediately equipped himself with Boots & spurs, ordered his Horses out & his Baggage to be packed up, & came to take his leave of Capt Lloyd & myself, but we stop^d^ him short, & walked up & down the lane in a conversation with him for an hour & a half, representing to him the Danger the Province would be exposed to by his leav^g^ the Regim^t^ in the present confused situation, & the good intentions & sincerity of the Governor towards him at all times & used many other prevailing arguments with him to continue in the service; we had so much Influence over him as to persuade him to stay till the morn^g^ by which means, Mr Peters, Parsons, Beaty & other Friends had an opportunity to advise the Col° to amicable terms with the Govr. We several times wished for your presence here to act as a Mediator between them. However I have pleasure to inform you, that last night they had a private conference together in the Gov^rs^ Marquee, and in abo^t^ an hours time while we were all sitting in Harris's Room they both came in to us with chearful countenances which gave us the most sensible joy, and the Breach is entirely made up.

The difference arose from some expressions, the Govr inadvertently drop't to the Col° at 2 or 3 different times, which the Col° imagined was done with an intention to affront him. I have not time to particularize the expressions as it is late at night. Mr Burd's conduct has been so good here as to have gained the affections of the Govr, Col°, & Capt Lloyd, and they often speak greatly in his praise, as an industrious active useful and clever fellow. He has not any time to write, and desires that any letters I write may be taken as from him & me jointly. Indeed I have very little time myself for the purpose as I have constantly one duty or other to do.

The Govr, Col° Mr. Beatty & Capt Lloyd desire their Complim^ts^ to you, Mammy & Sally &c. I conclude M^r^

Burd's & my love to Mammy, Sister & all the Family as if particularly named.

I am very sincerely
Sir, your affectionate
& dutiful Son
JOSEPH SHIPPEN JR.

P.S. I got Ensign Atlee
to copy part of this letter
this morning early as I
am immediately going
on a command with 60 men to
Hunter's Mill, to escort the Govr & Col^{o} who
go also. I shall have occasion for 2 more
pair of brown thread stockings, as the worsted
will be too warm for Summer.

To EDW^{d} SHIPPEN ESQ^{r}.

CAMP AT M^{c}KEE'S STORE 1st June 1756.

HON^{d} SIR.

I came here safe last night with Capt Lloyd & other officers; we have now here above half the Regim^{t} & I expect Major Burd up with the remainder in three days.

I rec'd your Fav^{r} of 30th ulto. this morn^{g} to wch I can make no answer till I speak with the Col^{o} wth reg^{d} to the stools &c.

The Col^{o} desires me to send you the inclosed letter & furlough; you'll see by it, that one Pepler, a soldier, is in goal on suspicion of burning a fence & he begs you'll be pleased to enquire into the affair, & see whether the man can be released, so as to join the Regiment.

Please also to enquire for Andrew Ring, a soldier, who had a Furlough above a week ago, to be absent but three days; he went to Lancaster to see his wife, and please to acquaint him if he does not immediately return, the Col^{o} will advertize him as a Desert^{r}.

The Col^{o} expects the pleasure of seeing you here in a very short time, as I suppose we shall march from hence very soon. I should be glad if it should suit your con-

veniency to come up. My love to Mammy, Salley & all the Family. The Col$^{o's}$ & Capt Lloyds Comp^{ts} to you.

I am with great Esteem

Your very Affect^{e} & dutiful Son

JOSEPH SHIPPEN JR.

To EDW^{d} SHIPPEN ESQ^{r}, at Lancaster.

(To be continued.)